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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC No. 4279-83

13 June 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Milton Kovner
: National Intelligence Officer for Western Europe

SUBJECT: : Contingency Study of a Greek-Turkish Military Clash

1. As part of our continuing effort to explore contingencies which could impact on US interests, I asked DDI/EURA to give some thought to the causes and possible scenarios of a Greek-Turkish military clash in the Aegean. While the probability of direct aggression by either side appears remote for the moment, the possibility of inadvertent military action is ever present in the recurrent charges by Athens of Turkish violations of alleged Greek airspace and threatened retaliation.

2. Although the response is a tentative one, I have reviewed it and, unless you see any objections, will pass it along to some of my counterparts who might find it useful. Don Fortier, Special Assistant to the President for Political-Military Affairs on the NSC staff, has evinced a special interest in receiving it.


Milton Kovner

Attachment:
EUR M83-10173

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MEMORANDUM FOR: DCI
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FROM : Milton Kovner
NIO for Western Europe

SUBJECT : Contingency Study of a Greek-Turkish Military Clash

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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

9 June 1983

A Contingency Study on a Greek-Turkish Military ConfrontationSummary

A war between Greece and Turkey is improbable given present circumstances. However, the volatility of relations between the two countries -- they clashed on Cyprus in 1974 and nearly came to blows twice later in the decade over Aegean oil exploration rights -- and the negative implications for the US and NATO of fighting between them suggest that the possibility of such a development must be taken seriously. This paper is an attempt to lay out the current disputes that could provide impulse for a Greek-Turkish clash, to describe how the fighting might unfold, and to calculate the impact of such an event on US interests. [redacted]

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The Greek-Turkish quarrel continues to center on conflicting claims about resource rights and territorial limits in the Aegean. These disputes spill over into other areas, hindering agreement between Athens and Ankara on NATO command and control responsibilities in the Aegean and heightening bilateral tensions over Cyprus and other issues. Although both sides presently appear intent on avoiding military conflict, the chances of war would increase over the longer term if either side gained a clear military advantage or if the domestic situation in either country became unstable. [redacted]

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This memorandum was prepared by [redacted] of the Office of European Analysis at the request of the National Intelligence Officer for Western Europe.

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